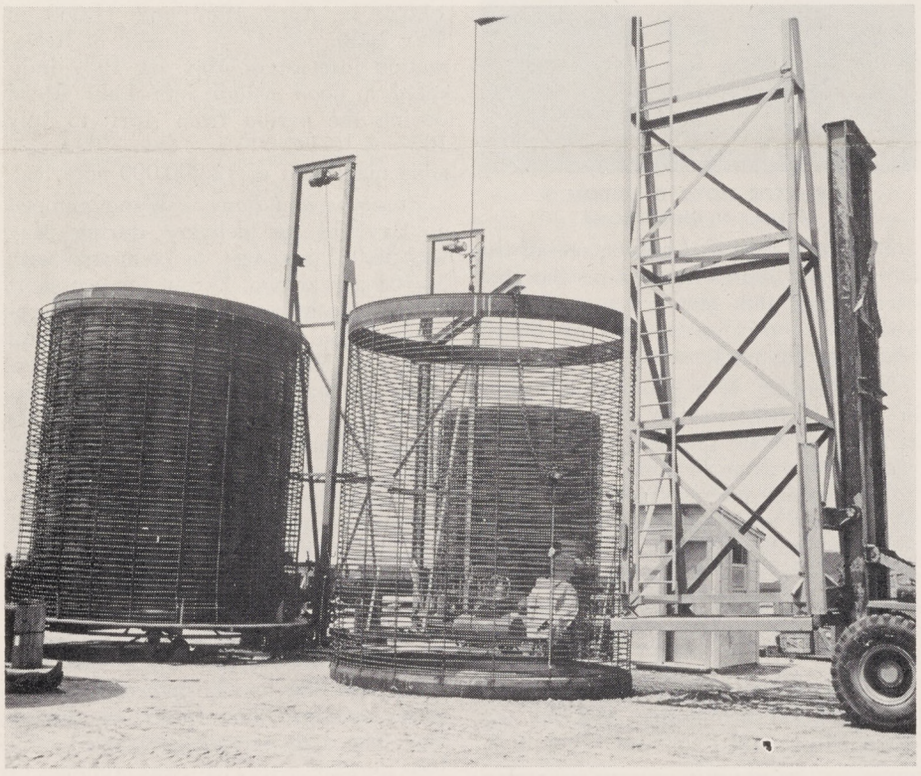
• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XXIV JUNE, 1957 NUMBER 6



Reinforcement cages for the 47 new siphons on the main aqueduct are being constructed by the American Pipe and Construction Company at their plant at Etiwanda. Shown above are two of the cages with the one at the left containing the steel cylinder. The cages and cylinders will be taken by flat car to a field plant near Desert Hot Springs where the first portion of pipe for the siphons is to be poured.

Additional Water For Orange County In July

An additional supply of Colorado River water is scheduled to be flowing into Orange County early in July. The increased delivery will be made through the new segment of the Lower Feeder, the construction of which has been a part of the general expansion program now being carried forward by the Metropolitan Water District.

Robert B. Diemer, General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District, which delivers Colorado River water to Orange County, pointed out that the District has been rushing to completion a delivery line which connects with the West Orange County Feeder near the County line. All work on this line is scheduled to be completed early in July and the District will then be able to deliver 50 per cent more softened Colorado River water than is now flowing into Orange County, the District official declared.

This additional supply will be particularly beneficial to coastal cities, such as Newport Beach, which now rely almost entirely upon water from the District's Brea Reservoir. Some cities further inland, such as Anaheim, Fullerton, Santa Ana and Buena Park do have underground sources which they can use.

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District Invites Bids On $15,000,000 Bond Issue

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has issued notice inviting bids on $15,000,000 in Waterworks Bonds which are to be sold in connection with the District's $200,000,000 program for the extension and expansion of its Colorado River Aqueduct, it was announced by Albert W. McKinlay, District Controller.

Sealed bids will be received by the District at its Los Angeles office up to 10:30 A.M., California Daylight Saving Time, Tuesday, July 9, 1957, at which time they will be opened by the Board of Directors, Mr. McKinlay said.

The $15 million issue will consist of 15,000 coupon bonds in the denomination of $1000 each, dated August 1, 1957. They will mature in consecutive numerical order in the amount of $1,250,000 on August 1 of each of the years 1958 to 1969, inclusive. The interest rate is not to exceed 4½ percent per annum.

"These are the first short-term bonds to be sold by the Metropolitan Water District under the provision of Proposition "W" which was approved overwhelmingly by the voters at the June 5, 1956 election," Mr. McKinlay declared.

"The money derived from this and future bond issues of a similar nature will be used to expedite the District's $200 million expansion program to bring the Colorado River Aqueduct to its full, ultimate capacity of one billion gallons of water a day for Southern California," he emphasized.

The District official pointed out that the interest and the principal of the bonds will be repaid primarily from revenues and annexation fees which are pledged and will be paid into the District treasury during the next 25 to 30 years. Because of these anticipated revenues no increase in taxes for the financing of these bonds is contemplated.

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306 West Third Street
Los Angeles, California

Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

Vol. XXIV JUNE, 1957 No. 6

Four Water Groups Urge Special Legislative Session

The 1957 session of the State Legislature adjourned at midnight June 12, 1957 without having adopted a constitutional amendment with reference to State water rights. The Metropolitan Water District at the last three sessions of the Legislature has strongly supported the proposal to provide for water rights protection for all portions of the State through the adoption of a constitutional amendment.

To meet the situation existing following the June 12 adjournment of the Legislature, the Metropolitan Water District joined with three other major Southern California groups in appealing to Governor Knight to call a special session of the Legislature this year to be devoted to the subject of a water rights constitutional amendment.

Governor Knight was urged to call the special water session in a statement signed by the Metropolitan Water District, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Southern California Water Coordinating Conference.

Declaring that a constitutional amendment dealing fairly with water users in all parts of the State is "absolutely imperative", the groups' united action was set forth in the following statement:

Southern Californians naturally are disappointed that the 1957 session of the Legislature did not produce a water rights constitutional amendment and thereby open the channels for expediting the Feather River Project and other parts of the California Water Plan. The Legislators who held out for such an amendment as a prerequisite to appropriations for the water program were exercising the same sound judgment that goes into any business-like operation. No individual or organization starts a building program without assurances that he or it has title to the property involved, and we do not know of any other instance in California where private operators or local agencies have built water projects without a similar assurance of good title to the water to be delivered by the project.

We believe our Southern California Legislators are to be commended for their stand on this basic principle and at the same time for their demonstrated willingness to consider and accept reasonable compromises in arriving at an acceptable constitutional amendment.

The Feather River Project cannot be built, nor should any other unit of the California Water Plan be started without a proper solution of the water rights' issue and agreement upon certain basic principles with respect to repayment of the costs of these projects.

It is our opinion that these steps can best be accomplished by a special session

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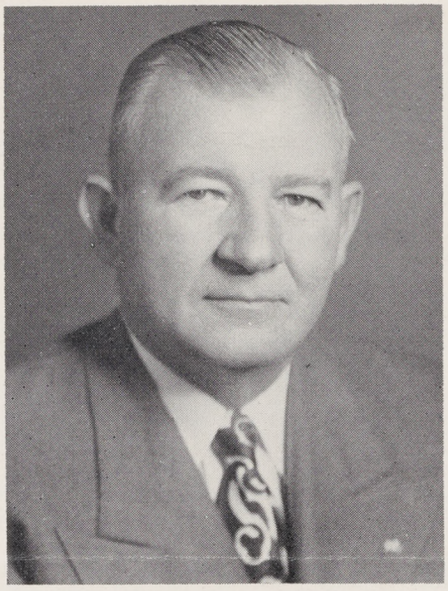

DIRECTOR LLOYD C. LEEDOM
10 Years on District Board

Director Lloyd C. Leedom, one of the Long Beach representatives on the District Board, this month was presented with his 10-year service pin by Board Chairman Joseph Jensen.

Mr. Leedom is a prominent realtor in Long Beach, having been engaged in the real estate business there for 37 years in the same location. In addition to his business interests, for many years he has been engaged in numerous civic activities in Long Beach. He has been a member of the Long Beach Realty Board for a number of years and served one term as president of that organization.

On the District Board he is serving on the Land Committee and on the Organization and Personnel Committee.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed June, 1957 covering District operations for May, 1957.)

Colorado River—The water surface elevation of Lake Mead rose 18.31 feet to elevation 1109.31 and usable storage increased 1,738,000 acre-feet to 13,133,000. The average rate of discharge from Hoover Dam for the month was 12,440 cubic feet per second as compared with 14,820 in April 1957 and 11,660 in May 1956. The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation forecast of May 10, 1957 indicated a flood runoff into Lake Mead during the period from April to July 1957 of 10,700,000 acre-feet with a possible maximum of 12,200,000 acre feet.

Pumping and Power—Water pumped at Hayfield for delivery during May was 58,081 acre-feet, as compared with 31,764 a year ago. Except for two short periods, pumping at Hayfield was continuously on a four-pump operation until 6:00 p.m. May 1, when five-pump operation was started and continued for the balance of the month. The District's share of Parker energy was 22,067,732 kwhrs, all of which was used by the District in its own system. Edison interchange energy delivered to the District was 22,176,000 kwhrs. Peak delivery to and from Edison Co. was 60,500 kw and 140,000 kw, respectively.

Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant—Colorado River water was softened from 384 to 128 ppm of hardness at an average rate of 237 cfs during May. The daily rate of flow varied from 155 to 228 cfs. The total volume of water treated was 14,315 acre-feet.

Construction — Progress on construction work on the distribution system was as follows: Schedules 79SC and 80SC (Lower Feeder) the contracts are 95 and 91 percent complete, respectively; Schedules 56SC and 57SC (Middle Feeder) contract is 55 percent complete; Schedules 58SC and 59SC (Middle Feeder) contract is 45 percent complete; Schedule 59A (Middle Feeder) contract is 49 percent complete.

Extension of Pumping Plant Buildings—The contract is complete and work on the contract was accepted on June 3, 1957. On installation of Pumping Unit 6, percentage of work complete at each plant is as follows: Intake 46; Gene 47; Iron Mountain 25; Eagle Mountain 6; and Hayfield 4.

Purchasing—Total expenditures covered by 456 purchase orders and 3 agreements were about $129,964.

Orange County Water

(Continued from Page One)

However, these underground basins have become badly depleted by prolonged and increased pumping and are now at the lowest level of all time, it is reported.

Fortunately, natural or unsoftened Colorado River water for replenishing these basins is now being furnished by the Metropolitan Water District at the rate of about 750 acre-feet (244 million gallons) per day.

Most of this water is being released into the Santa Ana River approximately 6 miles northeast of Olive. As it flows down the river it fans out into spreading basins, sinks underground and distributes itself through the Lower Santa Ana Basin.

The huge increase in deliveries of natural water to Orange County over previous years was made possible when the Metropolitan Water District recently placed in operation a fifth pump at each of its five pumping stations along the Colorado River Aqueduct. These pumps lift the water out of the Colorado River and over mountain barriers between the river and the coastal plain of Southern California.

The water is delivered to the Orange County Municipal Water District which is a part of the Metropolitan Water District. Most of the developed area in Orange County, including all its incorporated cities, is within the Metropolitan Water District.

The natural Colorado River water sold to Orange County for spreading purposes during May totaled 14,310 acre-feet and constituted the largest sale of water during one month ever made to one agency by the Metropolitan Water District.

In a special ceremony at the District headquarters in Los Angeles a $143,100 check in payment for the water was presented by the Orange County Water District to Glenn P. Allen of Orange, who is one of six representatives of Orange County cities and water districts on the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors. The money, in turn, was paid to the Metropolitan Water District.

A recent report by the Orange County Water District shows that the water level in wells in the Orange County Coastal Basin, as an average, stood 21 feet below sea level. This is the lowest average elevation of the water level in the history of the basin, the report states.

The report shows there is an accumulated overdraft in the basin of 223,000 acre-feet. The annual overdraft for the current water year was estimated to be 64,000 acre-feet prior to the increase in deliveries of Colorado River water for spreading purposes.

Referring to the new delivery line, which will increase the amount of softened water available to Orange County, Mr. Diemer declared that this line represents an investment of $8,000,000 by the Metropolitan Water District. The extension to the West Orange County Feeder, which was completed earlier this year and which will connect with the new line known as the Lower Feeder, was built under a one and one-half million dollar contract.

Special Session Urged

(Continued from Page Two)

of the Legislature held at a separate time from the regular budgetary session, such special session to be devoted exclusively to water questions. This is necessary in order that the Legislators' attention can be concentrated on the one subject without cross-currents of other considerations. A special session should be preceded by an earnest effort on the part of an Interim Committee representing both Houses of the Legislature to arrive at a specific solution of the issues involved.

In issuing this statement, each of our organizations reaffirms its belief that a constitutional amendment should provide that watersheds where the water originated be legally and fully protected for their reasonable ultimate, beneficial need. We believe that to make this practical, the State should assume the responsibility for replenishment of deficiencies where original allocations will not supply the needs that may develop in the future. We firmly believe, however, that the authorization for this replenishment should be through the Legislative processes. Economic feasibility should be a test for a replenishment project, as well as for any other unit in a State water program but the State may properly stand the expense of any costs in excess of those which would be incurred had the area not been deprived of this supply through allocation for exportation. We differentiate between a proviso for replenishment and one for recapture. We do not believe it is either equitable or sound policy to authorize the recapture of water supply when money has been spent for a project to put it to beneficial use. Any such proposal for recapture thwarts the very idea of a constitutional amendment.

On the question of financing, we are agreed that repayment should be made by the beneficiaries in line with proper allocation of costs. This means that the general public, through either the Federal or State Government, would assume charges for non-reimbursable items such as flood control, navigation and recreational improvements of national or statewide interests. We believe, also, that State monies for acquisition of reservoir and dam sites, rights of way and relocation of utilities and highways should be non-reimbursable. On the other hand, costs for bringing water to those who use it for the special benefit of themselves or local groups, such as municipalities, irrigation districts, and power companies, should be repaid by such beneficiaries.

This general policy for furthering the development of the State's water resources has been consistently endorsed throughout the past Legislative session by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and by Mayor Norris Poulson. The absolute need for a sound and fair constitutional amendment as a prerequisite to further appropriations has been recognized by the leaders of the two major political party organizations in this area.

Throughout the Legislative session representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Metropolitan Water District and the Department of Water and Power worked diligently to reconcile the conflicting views of various sectional groups. In spite of their best efforts, it finally became clear that a powerful bloc would prevent any constructive action. If there is any blame to attach for failure to secure legislation, it must be attached to that bloc.

As further evidence of the desire on the part of the Metropolitan Water District and the Department of Water and Power to work out a fair and equitable constitutional amendment, it must be remembered that attorneys for those two agencies signed the draft submitted by Governor Knight's Water Lawyers' Committee. That draft included, among other provisions, a replenishment proposal that was an extremely generous concession to areas of origin in the Northern part of the State.

While the Southern California Water Coordinating Conference had not previously been requested to participate in a joint statement with the previously named groups, it is glad to join in this affirmation of policy on Feather River Project legislation, inasmuch as the principles here enunciated are completely in line with its own published statement of principles on statewide water development.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

District employees from the field, office and softening plant have a softball team entry in the La Verne City Men's Softball League and thus far are batting .500 in league competition. They won their first game against the American Legion team on June 19 by a score of 5 to 4 but dropped the next one against Bob's Electric on June 26 by 8 to 0. The team manager is Frank Dennis. Others on the team include Keith Goodwin, Daryl Hedrick, Harold Sundberg, Bob Watley, Charles Copeland, David Creighton, Matt Ballinger, Ray Hurd, Ed Slaven, Frank Dennis, Pat Thomas, Jay Irwin, Wayne Rich and Jerry Brown. Jim Loofbourrow and Fred Hollingsworth, not District employees, are also on the team.

* * *

Betty Killion, Secretary in the Los Angeles office, is back at her desk after a month-long tour of the east with her parents and brother. While driving east they encountered the tail end of a tornado in Kansas but suffered no damage. During the trip they visited Chicago, some horse farms in the blue grass section of Kentucky, Washington, D.C., New York City, most of the New England States and Quebec and Montreal in Canada. By the time they returned home, they had traveled 9000 miles.

All District employees and their families are invited to the grand opening of the Eagle Mountain Community Center on July 30. The program will include a buffet dinner from 6 to 7 P.M., a movie, dancing and swimming. Everyone planning to attend should notify O. J. Thompson, Box 443, Desert Center, before July 20 so arrangements for food can be made.

* * *

Mrs. W. F. McCleary and Mrs. Ruth Morrison, of Lake Mathews, were cohostesses at a recent surprise baby shower given in honor of Mrs. Howard Caudle. Howard is a Maintenance Mechanic at Lake Mathews. Guests at the shower included a number of wives of District employees and the shower proved to be a complete surprise to Mrs. Caudle.

* * *

Frank Aranda, Senior Draftsman, and his wife Angela, became parents for the second time on June 15 when a baby girl was presented to them at St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach. The young lady weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and has been named Teresa Lisa.

ANNA ROSENBERGER

Miss Anna Rosenberger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Rosenberger, graduated from Coachella Valley High School this month. Ann's father is a Utility Man at Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant. Her diploma is especially welcome because of the long bus ride from Eagle Mountain to Coachella.

Roger W. Sutton, left, who was married June 1, is shown with a group of District employees when he was presented with a movie camera and tripod. From left to right are Roger, John Keigan, Owen Wilson, Robert Skinner, Munson Dowd, Ruby Fernandez and Donald Brooks. Roger was married to Miss Gwendolyn Parker in the Banning Nazarene Church. The happy couple are making their home in Alhambra.